



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

❧ **STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT,** ❧

FOR THE YEAR 1894.





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FOR THE
Stafford Rural District
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TO THE STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Third Annual Report, which contains a few further statistics of interest.

There are 52,103 acres contained in the Rural District, giving about five acres per head.

The population census for 1891 was 10,320; census 1881 was 10,642; being a nett annual decrease of 33·2. I estimated the population to the middle of 1893 at 10,420, there having been a large increase of births over deaths. In this Report I have estimated the population to the middle of 1894 at 10,520. The births exceed the deaths by 171.

At the end of this Report I have tabulated the parishes included in this district, showing the population in each parish. I have still further increased the number of columns, comparing 1894 with 1893 in the separate parishes, showing the number of births and deaths in each.

During the year 1894 there has been 286 births

registered in this district, consisting of 156 males and 130 females, as against 283 (146 males and 137 females) in the previous year, giving a birth-rate of 27·1 per 1,000, being the same rate as 1893.

The following is a comparative list of births, arranged quarterly:—

	1894.		1893.		1892.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st Quarter ...	30	27	41	31	30	34
2nd „ ...	38	35	40	31	33	34
3rd „ ...	49	37	33	39	31	35
4th „ ...	39	31	32	36	25	27
Totals...	156	130	146	137	119	130

There have been 14 illegitimate children born in the district this year against 10 last year:

Colwich 1.	Ronton 2.
Castlechurch 1.	Seighford 2.
Gayton 1.	Stowe 1.
Hopton 1.	Tillington 3.
Weston 2.	

There have been 115 deaths registered in the district, consisting of 62 males and 53 females this year, against 145 last year, giving a total death-rate of 10·9 per 1,000 including deaths occurring within the district and not belonging thereto, and 11·7 per 1,000 deaths occurring outside but belonging thereto, and a nett death-rate of 10·45 per 1,000, comparing as follows:—

	Including deaths not belonging to district.		Including deaths outside district but belonging thereto.		Nett.
1894...	10·93	.....	11·7	.....	10·45
1893...	13·8	.....	13·3	.....	12·8
1892...	19·6	.....	19·2	.....	18·5

The following is a comparative list of deaths per quarter from all causes that have occurred in the district:—

	1894.		1893.		1892.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st Quarter ...	13	12	16	14	40	43
2nd „ ...	24	7	20	15	25	20
3rd „ ...	15	20	17	24	15	21
4th „ ...	10	14	27	12	23	16
Totals...	62	53	80	65	103	100

Calculating the average age at death of those registered in the Stafford District, comprising the parishes of Berks-wich, Bradley, Brocton, Castlechurch, Cresswell, Ellenhall, Haughton, Hopton and Coton, Marston, Ronton, Salt and Enson, Seighford, Tillington, Whitgreave, Worston, and Yarlet, with a population of 6,478, census 1891, and excluding ages under one year gives an average of 49·1, but including those under one year 43·5.

In Colwich District, comprising the parishes of Chartley Holme, Colwich, Fradswell, Gayton, Ingestre, Stowe, Tixall, and Weston, with a population of 3,842, excluding those under one year gives an average of 55·6, but including those under one year 43·5, being the same in both districts in the latter average.

The difference in the two districts can be accounted for by the former being partly agricultural and partly manufacturing; in the latter entirely agricultural. The high death-rate amongst children of a tender age in the Rural District may be conjectured by not having a medical man so near as in Urban Districts.

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of deaths during the past three years, which speaks well for the health of the district.

There are no deaths from zymotic disease, but I have to report two deaths from puerperal condition.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, and pleurisy have increased from 15 cases last year to 18 cases this year; 15 deaths over five years and three under five years.

Deaths occurring from heart disease are as follows:—

1894, 13; 1893, 23; 1892, 30.

There have been no deaths from diphtheria or scarlet fever in the district this year against three and one respectively during 1893.

Preventable Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-two cases of scarlet fever have been notified (11 males and 11 females) from the following parishes:—

Castlechurch 3.	Ingestre 1.
Colwich 4.	Ronton 1.
Hixon 4.	Weston 7.

Yarlet 2.

From 19 houses infected comparing with the previous years as follows:—

	1894.	1893.	1892.
No. of houses infected	19	15	14
Do. cases	22	19	34

Diphtheria.

Three cases of diphtheria from the following parishes: Hopton 1, Hixon 1, Weston 1,

These cases were of a very mild type, thereby resulting in no deaths as compared with last year, when three cases were reported, death taking place in each case.

Only two cases of this disease (2 males) have been ^{Typhoid Fever.} notified, one in Castlechurch and one in Tillington parishes.

Hospital.

Eighteen cases have been admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment during the year from 14 houses (10 males, 8 females). There were nine houses with 31 children, and one case occurred in each house, thus speaking well for isolation.

In the other five houses two and three cases occurring, being attacked at the same time. In one case I thought it wise for the sister to be admitted to the hospital who had been nursing the patient suffering from the disease, and within 48 hours she developed scarlet fever.

Sanitary Work.

Many foul accumulations have been removed by the Inspector, and the following sanitary improvements have been carried out :—

NATURE OF NUISANCE.

Defective drainage (connected with 33 houses)	14
Dilapidated houses	6
„ closets	19
Over-crowded houses	1
Water-supply bad	13
No water (supply now provided 21 houses)	8

In each case the Stafford Corporation water-supply has been laid in Berkswich and Tillington parishes, also to 15 houses in the latter parish.

In the case of new houses, I have granted eight certificates of water being satisfactory.

The Inspector has visited 107 registered cow-sheds and dairies. He has paid 32 visits to canals and inspected 109 canal boats.

Rivers Pollution Act.

At several places works have been carried out to abate the pollution of rivers and canals, by providing new drains and other means of disposal of sewage.

Bishton Hall.

A new system of drainage has been laid down which has no connection with the canal.

The Convent,
Colwich.

The sewage drain has been disconnected from the drain which runs into the canal, and the sewage is being collected and carted on to the land.

Worston Hall.

The sewage has been disconnected from the drain leading into the canal and disposed of on the land.

Coton Hill
Asylum.

A new system of drainage is being carried out at this Institution, and as soon as the Stafford sewerage is completed the sewage will pass into the main drains of the Stafford Corporation.

Numerous other orders were deferred until the present time, and the District Council is now taking in hand the pollution of rivers, canals, and streams in Colwich and Great Haywood and numerous other places in the Rural District.

There is a matter of considerable importance I deem worthy of consideration in this Report with regard to lights on vehicles. I would call the attention of Parliament to enact a law compelling every wheeled conveyance having one, two, or more wheels, propelled either by man or beast to carry a light or lights, one hour after sunset, in front or a conspicuous part of the conveyance, in order that they shall see or be seen when approaching other vehicles. I would make it so compulsory and comprehensive that no one should escape a very heavy penalty. In fact, I would suggest that even a wheelbarrow shall carry a light.

These remarks may seem beyond my province, but having seen so many accidents as well as hearing of them from time to time prompts me to bring this prominently before you. The County Council cannot deal with this unless the Council in every County do it at the same time, because it would be most difficult for travellers by road to know where the different boundary lines begin or leave off.

In conclusion I must thank those gentlemen who have so kindly helped with information to complete this Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

SAMUEL BUTLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Stafford,

March 15th, 1895.

STATEMENT

Shewing the increase and decrease of population in the Rural Sanitary District of Stafford Union between the years 1881 and 1891, also the area and number of inhabited houses, births and deaths in each parish, &c.

Parish.	Population.		Increase.	Decrease.	Area in Acres.	Inhabited Houses.	Number in each House.	Acres per head.	1893		1894	
	1881	1891							Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
BERKSWICH	601	625	24	...	1600	135	4.6	2.56	16	4	7	3
BRADLEY.....	496	429	...	67	5000	92	3.6	11.6	6	4	15	5
BROCTON	224	212	...	12	800	50	4.24	3.7	16	6	18	4
CASTLE CHURCH ...	1054	1153	100	...	3440	228	5.05	2.8	31	13	22	15
CHARTLEY HOLME	41	37	...	4	1633	6	6.16	44.1	Nil.	1	Nil.	1
COLWICH	1625	1472	...	153	6477	331	4.4	4.3	31	22	38	24
CRESWELL	29	56	27	...	800	8	7.0	14.2	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
ELLENHALL	236	244	8	...	2460	49	4.8	10.0	2	2	7	Nil.
FRADSWELL	199	180	...	19	1100	36	5.0	6.1	2	1	8	4
GAYTON	236	221	...	15	1470	46	4.8	6.6	8	1	8	1
HAUGHTON	501	516	15	...	1860	119	4.3	3.6	9	10	10	3
HOPTON & COTON...	684	614	...	70	4374	83	7.3	7.1	19	22*	20	6
INGESTRE	138	192	54	...	1100	36	5.3	5.7	1	1	4	Nil.
MARSTON	664	124	...	540	1439	19	6.5	11.6	3	1	3	1
RANTON	277	249	...	28	1700	60	4.15	6.8	6	8	7	5
SALT & ENSON	426	416	...	10	1536	93	4.4	3.6	11	4	6	2
SEIGHFORD.....	756	793	37	...	4584	168	4.7	5.6	24	7	23	2
STOWE	1167	880	...	287	4631	206	4.3	5.2	31	10	23	20
TILLINGTON	271	1008	737	...	1090	202	4.9	1.0	44	17	38	14
TIXALL.....	226	212	...	14	2323	39	5.4	10.9	3	Nil.	3	Nil.
WESTON	528	453	...	75	719	91	4.9	1.5	13	9	19	4
WHITGREAVE	150	160	10	...	1167	30	5.3	7.3	5	1	5	1
WORSTON	7	15	8	...	300	2	7.5	20.0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
YARLET	117	59	...	58	500	4	14.7	8.4	Nil.	1	2	Nil.
									283	145	286	115

* This number includes the deaths at the Coton Hill Institution.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, in the Stafford Rural Sanitary District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.					Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.							Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.			
Rural Sanitary District	10,320	10,520	286													
Total cases reported among persons belonging to District				Under 5..... 5 upwards	6 16		3			2			1	2		
Total cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to District.....				Under 5 .. 5 upwards	5 13											

“ Notification of Infectious Diseases ” compulsory in the District since 1890. Measles and Whooping Cough not included among the diseases notified.

An Isolation Hospital is available for the District.

Area of District in acres, 52,103.

